

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the subject application, particularly in view of the above amendment and the following remarks. There is no additional fee for the above amendment as the number of independent claims and the total number of claims have been reduced.

Applicants have amended the claims of the subject application by canceling Claims 8-15.

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in the subject application. Claims 1-7 have been indicated to be allowable and Claims 8-15 have been rejected.

Claims 8-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully urge that the cancellation of Claims 8-14 renders this rejection moot.

Claims 8-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by PCT International Publication No. WO 97/32813. Applicants respectfully urge that, as a result of the cancellation of Claims 8-14 from the application, this rejection is rendered moot.

Claims 8-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hensley, Jr., U.S. Patent 3,849,296. Applicants respectfully urge that,

as a result of the cancellation of Claims 8-14 from the application, this rejection is rendered moot.

Claims 8-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by La Hue et al., U.S. Patent 3,935,295. Applicants respectfully urge that, as a result of the cancellation of Claims 8-10 from the application, this rejection is rendered moot.

Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT International Publication No. WO 97/32813. Applicants respectfully urge that, as a result of the cancellation of Claim 15 from the application, this rejection is rendered moot.

Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hensley, Jr., U.S. Patent 3,849,296. Applicants respectfully urge that, as a result of the cancellation of Claim 15 from the application, this rejection is rendered moot.

Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over La Hue et al., U.S. Patent 3,935,295. Applicants respectfully urge that, as a result of the cancellation of Claim 15 from the application, this rejection is rendered moot.

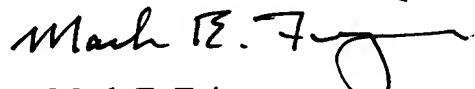
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Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not addressed in this response, Applicants urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned.

Applicants sincerely believe that this patent application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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